Allotment of rice to Chhattisgarh

955. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:
SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:
SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of rice for APL families being allotted per month to Chhattisgarh;

(b) whether the quantity which was allotted earlier, was much more than this;

(c) whether the State has raised a demand to restore the previous trend; and

(d) whether any action has been taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (d) The allocations of food grains for Above Poverty Line (APL) category under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) to States and UTs, including the State of Chhattisgarh, are being made on the basis of availability of foodgrains in the Central Pool. Allocations of rice for the APL category were made in larger quantities till 2006-07 in view of surplus stocks available in the Central Pool at that time. However, in view of constraints on stock position of rice in the Central Pool, the allocation of rice under TPDS to States/UTs, including Chhattisgarh, for the APL category was rationalized from April, 2007 on the basis of past offtake and availability of stocks in the Central Pool.

The State Government has made requests for enhancement/restoration of the APL allocations to the level of 2006-07 allocations. It has also been requested for increasing allocation of APL what from 15,000 tons to 30,000 tons per month. Considering the request of the State for enhancement of APL allocation, Government made additional allocation of 448 tons of rice from March, 2009. Subsequently, monthly APL rice allocation was increased from 1401 tons to 10360 tons from July, 2009.

Besides, under Open, Market Sale Scheme (OMSS), Government has released 960 tons of rice for distribution to retail consumers of the State during October to December, 2009.

Storage capacity of foodgrains

956. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:
SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether storage capacity of foodgrains is falling short; and